

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Figures 1 and 2 have been amended to provide marks indicating teeth in belts 15.

Figure 1 has been amended to more clearly illustrate the longer sides indicated by ref. no.5. Figure 1 has been further amended to more clearly show the reference number 6'.

Attachment: 2 Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 15-27 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 28-41 are new. The new claims find support in the specification and the Figures of the application as filed, and do not introduce new matter.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Official Action states that the Search Report was not considered to be an information disclosure statement (IDS) complying with 37 C.F.R. 1.98.

The Official Action states that the information disclosure statement filed 02/10/2006 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document; each non-patent literature publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.

In response, it is respectfully submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement filed 02/10/2006 stated that some or all the documents listed in the PTO-1449, also filed 02/10/2006, were not disclosed because they were cited in the International Search Report and copies should have been forwarded from the International Search Authority pursuant to the Trilateral Agreement between the USPTO, EPO, and JPO. It is

therefore respectfully submitted that the IDS was properly filed and, accordingly, it is believed that no additional fees or statements are required.

Further to the Examiner's convenience, copies of the IDS, the PTO-1449, the International Search Report, an English copy of the International Search Report, the postcard confirming receipt of all the foregoing by the Patent Office on 02/10/2006, and copies of the references listed in the PTO-1449 are provided in the Appendix of this amendment. It is respectfully noted that the last entry in the PTO-1449 in the section entitled "Other Documents" refers to a single reference, wherein "Patent Abstracts of Japan, vol. 1995, no. 07, 31. August 1995 (1995-08-31)" is the English translation of "JP 07 089740 A (SHIGIYA SEIKI SESAKUSHO:KK), 4. April 1994 (1995-04-04) Zusammenfassung; Abbildungen 1-3"; both documents are provided with this amendment for the convenience of the Examiner.

Consideration of the IDS and International Search Report submitted 02/10/2006 is respectfully requested.

Formal Matters, Objections and Rejections

The Official Action objected to the abstract of the disclosure because it contained more than 150 words. The abstract has been amended responsive to the Official Action's objection. Withdrawal of the objection and entry of the new Abstract are respectfully requested.

The Official Action objected to claims 15, 16, 18-20, 25 and 27 for claim informalities. In response, claims 15-27 have been cancelled as stated above, and new claims 28-41 are believed to avoid the Official Action's objection. Withdrawal of the claim objection is therefore respectfully requested.

The Official Action objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a), stating that the tooth belt as indicated by element 12 in claims 20 and 25 must be shown or the feature canceled from the claims. In response, claims 15-27 have been cancelled as stated above. New claim 33 recites the conveyer elements (15) as tooth belts.

Figures 1 and 2 have been amended to illustrate elements (12) with teeth. Figure 1 has been amended to more clearly illustrate the longer sides indicated by ref. no.5. Figure 1 has been further amended to more clearly show the reference number 6'.

The Official Action rejected claims 16, 21, 22 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for relative terms "especially" and "preferably". In response, claims 15-27 have been cancelled as stated above, and new claims 28-41 are believed to avoid the Official Action's rejection. Withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Substantive Rejections

The Official Action rejected claims 15-19 and 21-27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bergfelt et al. (4,221,150), hereinafter BERGFELT, in view of Klages et al. (1,852,310), hereinafter KLAGES, and Meuret (FR 2,545,815) hereinafter MEURET.

The Official Action rejected claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over BERGFELT in view of KLAGES and MEURET and further in view of Applicant's admitted prior art.

In response, it is firstly noted that claims 15-27 have been canceled as stated above.

It is respectfully submitted that new claims 28-41 are novel and non-obvious for at least the reasons stated below.

It is respectfully submitted that none of BERGFELT, KLAGES, and MEURET, individually or in combination, teach or suggest the guides 12 as recited in new independent claim 28, the guides being mounted on the base frame 2 independently of said table top 3, underneath the table top 3, and arranged inside and offset from both i) the lengthwise edges 5 of the table top 3 and ii) the widthwise edges of the table top 5.

In contrast, the ends of the guides 3, including at least the sprocket wheels 7, are clearly taught by BERGFELT to extend from outside the lengthwise edges of the table top 2.

Figures 1-3, for example, each illustrate the ends of the guides 3 extending well beyond the outer perimeter of the table top 2.

Likewise, none of KLAGES, and MEURET provide teaching or suggestion the guides being mounted as recited in claim 28.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of references proposed in the Official Action does not teach or suggest all the features recited by claim 28.

It is also respectfully submitted that the combination of BERGFELT, KLAGES, and MEURET would not yield the invention claimed. Unlike the invention claimed in claim 28, BERGFELT is directed toward a glass scribing apparatus for scribing a workpiece (Abstract; column 1 lines 5-22). BERGFELT does not teach or suggest a table top configured to support a glass plate to be divided, as recited in claim 28. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that modifying BERGFELT with KLAGES and MEURET would not lead to the instant invention as claimed.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 28, and claims depending therefrom, are patentable over the cited references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

From the foregoing, it will be apparent that applicants have fully responded to the January 8, 2008 Official Action and that the claims as presented are patentable. In view of this, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims, as presented, and their early passage to issue.

In order to expedite the prosecution of this case, it is requested that the Examiner telephone the attorney for applicants at the number set forth below if the Examiner is of the opinion that further discussion of this case would be helpful.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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REL/mjr

APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item(s):

- ☒ - a new or amended Abstract of the Disclosure
- ☒ - 2 Replacement Sheets for Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings
- ☒ - Copies of the 02/10/2006 Information Disclosure Statement, the PTO-1449, the PTO-1449 International Search Report, an English copy of the International Search Report, the postcard confirming receipt by the Patent Office, and copies of the references listed in PTO-1449.